

The Random Jottings of Donald Jay from Nelson in Pendle.

White Lady Location Chorley Heskin Hall Type Haunting Manifestation Hanged during the Civil War by a traitorous priest, this female member of the Mundesley family still returns home. The beam of wood from which her body dangled is considered lucky if you touch it.

Deep in the heart of Chorley, nestled within the sprawling countryside, stood the centuries-old Heskin Hall, a stately mansion shrouded in history and secrets. Within its aged walls, tales of the past lingered like whispers in the wind, none more haunting than the legend of the White Lady. The White Lady was said to be the restless spirit of Lady Isabella Mundesley, a tragic figure from the tumultuous era of the Civil War. Lady Isabella, as the story goes, was a loyal supporter of the Crown during a time when allegiances were fluid, and loyalties cost lives.

It was the betrayal of a treacherous priest, whose name had been lost to time, that ultimately sealed Lady Isabella's fate. This man of the cloth had turned his back on King and God alike, siding with the Parliamentarians. When his perfidious deeds came to light, he conspired with the enemy to capture Lady Isabella within the stone walls of Heskin Hall.

On a fateful night, a trial took place within the echoing halls of the mansion. The priest accused Lady Isabella of aiding Royalist soldiers, a charge she vehemently denied. Despite her protests of innocence, a swift verdict was delivered, and Lady Isabella was sentenced to hang for her alleged crimes.

The execution took place within the very halls of Heskin Hall that she had called home. A beam of sturdy oak wood was transformed into a gruesome instrument of death, and it was there that Lady Isabella met her end. As her life was cruelly snuffed out, her spirit was said to be forever trapped within the walls of the mansion.

In death, Lady Isabella became the White Lady, a spectral figure draped in a flowing white gown, her eyes forever filled with sorrow. Over the centuries, countless witnesses claimed to have seen her ghostly form wandering the halls of Heskin Hall, her footsteps echoing in the stillness of the night.

But the White Lady was not a malevolent presence. Instead, she was seen as a protector of the Mundesley family, her descendants. It was said that anyone who touched the very beam from which she had dangled would be blessed with good luck, as if Lady Isabella's spirit had bestowed her favor upon them.

Heskin Hall became a place of pilgrimage for those seeking Lady Isabella's blessing. Visitors from far and wide came to witness the enigmatic White Lady and to lay their hands upon the sacred oak beam. Some claimed to have felt a strange warmth or a comforting presence, as if Lady Isabella's spirit was indeed watching over them.

As the years rolled on, Heskin Hall remained a sanctuary for those who believed in the power of the White Lady's benevolence. Lady Isabella's tragic tale, her unjust execution, and her enduring presence within the mansion's walls served as a reminder of the price paid by those caught in the crossfire of history.

And so, the legend of the White Lady of Heskin Hall lived on, a testament to the enduring power of history and the belief in the supernatural, inviting all who sought her blessing to touch the sacred beam and feel the gentle touch of a spirit from a bygone era.

By Donald Jay